

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-22 and 24-30 are pending and stand ready for further action on the merits.

In the above-amendment to the specification and claims, Applicants have reversed the changes made in the December 22, 2003 Supplemental Amendment. Upon further consideration, it was deemed that the units "cN/10mm" are proper and that use of the units "cN/mm²/10mm" would render the disclosure of the application inaccurate.

The December 22, 2003 Supplemental Amendment was filed in response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the phrase "a strength at 5% elongation in the longitudinal direction of 150cN/10mm or less" as appearing in lines 3-4 of claim 1. The Examiner believes that the dimensions for this strength characteristic should be "mm²" and not "mm". However, the unit stands for the strength (N: Newton) of a test piece having a width of 10 mm. In this connection, the specification describes that the strength at 5% elongation is measured in accordance with JIS K7127. JIS K7127 describes that

the unit for strength is normally per unit area, i.e., (width x thickness) of the test piece as stated in the Office Action dated August 29, 2003. However, Applicants' unit for strength does not have the dimension of the thickness, but only has the dimension of the width. That is the reason why Applicants' unit for strength should be represented by "cN/10 mm". In other words, Applicants' unit is independent of the thickness of a test piece. Thus, any film which has the claimed range of the strength is encompassed by claim 1 whatever thickness the film has.

Applicants respectfully maintain the traversal of the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and based on the foregoing explanation, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants' comments in the December 1, 2003 Amendment are herein incorporated by reference.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. A notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Appl. No. 09/986,370


If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact **Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq., (#43,575)** at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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